

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 02318 01 OF 02 091848Z
ACTION ICAE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00
IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 091054Z AUG 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2776
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HAVANA 2318

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL SHUM PINT CU
SUBJ: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL: WRAP-UP

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE PRESENCE OF SOME DISCREPANT VOICES, HAVANA
WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL WAS SUCCESSFUL IN GIVING MOST DELEGATES
POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF CUBA AND PROVIDING PROPAGANDA FORUM FOR
ANTI-US STATEMENTS.END SUMMARY.

2. BREZHNEV'S MESSAGE TO WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS
CITED POSSIBILITIES FOR "YOUTHS OF DIVERSE POLITICAL CONVICTIONS
AND PHILOSOPHICAL POINTS OF VIEW" TO "UNITE THEIR EFFORTS".
SOVIET/CUBAN GOAL CLEARLY WAS TO LINK NON-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS ON
THE LEFT, PARTICULARLY FROM THE DEVELOPED WESTERN NATIONS, WITH
ORTHODOX COMMUNIST ELEMENTS IN A "UNITED FRONT" ACTIVITY THAT
WOULD BE BASED ON OPPOSITION TO WESTERN POLICIES AND SUPPORT
OF SOVIET/CUBAN CAUSES CELEBRES. BEYOND IMMEDIATE TACTICAL
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PAGE 02 HAVANA 02318 01 OF 02 091848Z

PURPOSE OF GENERATING PROPAGANDA, FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS
WISHED TO BUILD LONG-TERM GOOD WILL AMONG DELEGATES TOWARD
CUBA AND COMMUNIST STATES GENERALLY, PRESUMABLY FOR EXPLOI-
TATION IN FUTURE.

3. AS FAR AS GENERATION OF GOOD WILL IS CONCERNED, CUBANS
APPEAR TO HAVE LARGELY SUCCEEDED. ALTHOUGH SOME DELEGATES

COMPLAINED ABOUT PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS (LACK OF HOT WATER, POOR TRANSPORTATION, INSUFFICIENT TICKETS TO EVENTS), VIRTUALLY ALL SAID THEY ATE WELL AND HAD A GOOD TIME HERE.

4. SOME MORE POLITICALLY-ORIENTED DELEGATES ON THE EUROPEAN NON-COMMUNIST LEFT EXPRESSED DISTASTE FOR THE CUBANS' STALINIST METHODS AT POLITICAL SESSIONS (NO OPEN DISCUSSION, NO DEBATE OR RIGHT OF REPLY, NO VOTING BY DELEGATION MEMBERS, ADMISSION OF UNDER FIVE MEMBERS FROM LARGE SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSON DELEGATIONS TO POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, ADOPTION OF FINAL DECLARATION WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH DELEGATION MEMBERS). AND, THIS DISCONTENT MAY YET HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMUNIST PARTIES AND NON-COMMUNIST DELEGATES WHEN THEY RETURN HOME. NONETHELESS, THE BROAD MASS OF DELEGATES HAD MORE WHICH UNITED THEM POLITICALLY THAN DIVIDED THEM AND MANY DELEGATES WERE SIMPLY SIGHTSEERS INTERESTED IN THE MULTITUDE OF CULTURAL AND SPORTS EVENTS (SOME ONE HUNDRED PER DAY) OFFERED DURING FESTIVAL.

5. WITH REGARD TO IMMEDIATE PROPAGANDA, MOST NOTABLE EVENT WAS "YOUTH ACCUSES IMPERIALISM" TRIBUNAL WHICH LAMBASTED US POLICY IN ALL PARTS OF WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR HEAVY EMPHASIS ON CIA ACTIVITIES (SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVANA 2253 AND 2254). CHARGES AGAINST CIA WERE LARGELY OLD, WITNESSES AND JUDGES WERE OLD, AND VERY FEW YOUTH PARTICIPANTS WERE ABLE TO ATTEND TRIBUNAL. PRESUMABLY, MAIN PURPOSE OF TRIBUNAL WAS TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT BOOKS OR OTHER PUBLICATIONS - TO UNDERPIN A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAVANA 02318 01 OF 02 091848Z

POSSIBLY LONGLASTING AND PRESUMABLY SOVIET-SPONSORED PUBLIC ASSAULT ON CIA. (CUBAN PARTICIPANT IN TRIBUNAL TOLD USINT OFFICERS, AUGUST 7, THAT PUBLICATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING WITH STATEMENTS OF "WITNESSES" WHO APPEARED, PLUS SEVENTY MORE WHO COULD NOT SPEAK BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS.)

6. IN ADDITION TO ACCUSATIONS AGAINST CIA, REVELATIONS ON KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, AND DAN MITRIONE "EXPOSES", ATTENTION OF WESTERN JOURNALISTS HERE WAS ATTRACTED MAINLY BY ISOLATED DISPLAYS OF DISSIDENCE WITHIN ITALIAN, DUTCH, BRITISH, WEST GERMAN, AND YUGOSLAV DELEGATIONS (SEE HAVANA 2238, 2277, 2287, AND A-51 DATED AUGUST 9), BUT THIS DISSIDENCE, WHICH FOCUSED FUNDAMENTALLY ON SOVIET/EE HUMAN RIGHTS (ALTHOUGH ITALIANS DID COMPLAIN ABOUT ERITREA, SOME BRITISH DELEGATES REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED ABOUT LINK OF ZIONISM WITH RACISM AND AT LEAST ONE GREEK ALLEGEDLY HAD THE TENACITY TO CRITICIZE CUBAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS), WAS ONLY SMALL-SCALE AND IN NO WAY DISRUPTED THE PRIMARY ANTI-US ORIENTATION OF THE FESTIVAL. THE CAREFUL ORGANIZATIONAL PREPARATIONS OF THE CUBANS (SEE PARA 3), THE FACT THAT COMMUNISTS CONTROLLED BULK OF DELEGATIONS, AND FACT THAT EVEN IN WESTERN DELEGATIONS DEDICATED COMMUNISTS HAD UPWARDS OF ONE-THIRD OF MEMBERSHIP AND POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP GUARANTEED THAT EVERY MINOR DISPLAY OF

DISSIDENCE WAS COUNTERED BY AVALANCHE OF CHARGES IN OTHER DIRECTION.

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PAGE 01 HAVANA 02318 02 OF 02 110608Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 HAVANA 2318

7. WESTERN DISSIDENTS DID, HOWEVER, MAKE FORMULATION OF FINAL INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL COMMUNIQUE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE AND SOME WESTERN DELEGATIONS (NOTABLY BRITISH) ALLEGEDLY BLOCKED ISSUANCE OF FINAL DECLARATION BY POLITICAL COMMISSION ON CAPITALIST SYSTEM. (FYI IN ADDITION, POLITICAL COMMISSION ON NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER ISSUED FINAL STATEMENT WHICH NOTED THAT SOME DELEGATIONS HAD RESERVATIONS. MOST OTHER POLITICAL COMMISSIONS ISSUED NO FINAL DECLARATION BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY OF CRAFTING BROADLY ACCEPTABLE VIEW IN SHORT TIME PERIOD. END FYI.) WESTERN DELEGATIONS ALSO ALLEGEDLY HAD IN INFLUENCE IN SOFTENING FINAL GLOBAL DECLARATION OF FESTIVAL (READ BY VIETNAM "VICTORY SMILE" GIRL VO THI THANG BEFORE CASTRO'S AUGUST 5 CLOSING SPEECH). NEVERTHELESS, AS IS EVIDENT FROM READING FINAL DECLARATION (SEE GRANMA, AUGUST 6), THOSE FESTIVAL CHIEFS OF DELEGATION WHO AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN FORMULATION OF DOCUMENT (AND SOME WESTERN DELEGATIONS, PLUS YUGOSLAVS, APPARENTLY REFUSED) DEPARTED IN NO WAY FROM SOVIET LINE.
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PAGE 02 HAVANA 02318 02 OF 02 110608Z

DECLARATION (WHOSE STATUS AS OFFICIAL FESTIVAL DOCUMENT IS AMBIGUOUS) ROUNDLY CONDEMS WESTERN POLICY EVERYWHERE, SALUTES POSITIVE CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN VIETNAM, ANGOLA, AND ETHIOPIA, AND CONDEMNS NEUTRON BOMB. WHILE DECLARATION DOES NOT GO AS FAR AS TO PRAISE DIRECTLY CUBAN OVERSEAS MILITARY INTERVENTION AND DOES MENTION " DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES", WE DOUBT WHETHER SOVIETS OR CUBANS ARE TROUBLED BY THESE OMISSIONS OR ADDITIONS - GIVEN ONE-SIDED NATURE OF DOCUMENT. (COMMENT: SOME OBSERVERS CLAIM THAT ONLY ORTHODOX COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS AND DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED IN DRAFTING.)

8. AS REGARDS MEANING OF FESTIVAL FOR CUBAN POLICY TOWARD US, CONTINUOUS PUBLIC ASSAULTS ON US CLEARLY REFLECTED PESSIMISM IN HAVANA ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR QUICK MOVEMENT FORWARD. NONE-THELESS, EVEN MOST VICIOUS CUBAN ATTACKS ON US LARGELY LEFT OUT CONTEMPORARY REFERENCES, USINT SUFFERED NEITHER CRITICISM NOR DEMONSTRATION (CUBAN POLICE PROTECTION WAS SHARPLY INCREASED), AND PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESENT ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING DR. BRZEZINSKI) FOR MOST PART ESCAPED DIRECT CRITICISM BY CUBAN SPEAKERS. CASTRO, IN HIS AUGUST 5 FESTIVAL CLOSING SPEECH, CHOSE NOT TO REPEAT THE SARCASTICFERENCES TO PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH APPEARED IN HIS JULY 26 SPEECH (SEE HAVANA 2147) AND INSTEAD OPTED (IRONICALLY) FOR HIGHLY GENERAL, ANTI-WAR SPEECH. (BUT TARGET OF CASTRO'S REMARKS WERE CLEAR TO CUBAN AUDIENCE WHICH CHANTED "GIVE IT TO THE YANKEES" - "A LOS YANQUIS DALES DURO.") CASTRO'S USE OF THE PHRASE "NO PASARAN", PIONEERED BY LA PASIONARIA IN ROUSING MEMBERS OF THE LEFTIST "POPULAR FRONT" DURING SPANISH CIVIL WAR,ILLUSTRATED THAT CUBAN LEADER WAS THINKING OF THEMES THAT WOULD UNITE, NOT DIVIDE, LEFT. HE, THEREFORE, LIKE FINAL FESTIVAL DECLARATION, AVOIDED DIRECT REFERENCE TO CUBAN OVERSEAS MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AND FOREIGN CRITICISM OF THIS INVOLVEMENT. SPEAKING OF US, HE

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PAGE 03 HAVANA 02318 02 OF 02 110608Z

REFERRED ONLY TO OPPRESSED RACIAL MINORITIES.(COMMENT: CUBAN DELIVERY TO US IMMEDIATELY AFTER FESTIVAL OF NAMES OF FIRST GROUP OF AMCIT DUAL NATIONALS AND THEIR CUBAN FAMILIES WHO ARE BEING PERMITTED TO DEPART FOR US PLUS STILL FRIENDLY AND BUSINESSLIKE DEMEANOR OF CUBAN FUNCTIONARIES TOWARDS US SUGGEST THAT CUBANS MAY WISH TO MAINTAIN DUAL TRACT POLICY OF CURRYING FAVOR WITH US, WHILE PROMOTING REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVISM.)

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Message Attributes

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